



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 278, June 13, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in red. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

DX News

3A, MONACO. Special event call sign **3A1ØØA** will be QRV from **April 15th to June 30th** to commemorate the centenary of the IARU. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 10, 2025] (0411-0627)

3V, TUNISIA. Jerry, SQ5HG will be QRV as **3V8SS** from **June 9th to 16th**. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to [SQ5HG](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 23 June 5, 2025] (0606-0620)

4U/ITU, ITU HQ. Station **4UØITU** is QRV **until the end of 2025** to commemorate the International Telecommunications Union's 160th anniversary. QSL direct to [4UØITU](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0704)

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Solar-Terrestrial Data
14 Jun 2025 1713 GMT
 SFI: **143** SN: **149**
 A-Index: **66**
 K-Index: **3**
 X-Ray: **C1.8**
 304A: **127.9** @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: **9**
 Elc Flx: **2310**
 Aurora: **1/n=1.99**
 Mag (Bz): **-3.1**
 Solar Wind: **503.9**
 Geomag Field **UNSETTLED**
 Sig Noise Lvl **S2-S3**
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.norbnh.com>
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7P, LESOTHO. Mark, KW4XJ and Arina, KO4PZT are QRV as **7P8AB** and **7P8NB**, respectively, until June 30th. QSL via [KW4XJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0704)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD is QRV as **8R1TM** until July 10th. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, as well as on various Satellites, during the weekdays between 2300z and 0200z. QSL to [PY1SAD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 23 June 5, 2025] (0606-0711)

9U, BURUNDI. Antonio IK7WUL (ex 5VØDX, TY3AA, and 9G5IK) has now received the callsign **9UØDX** for Burundi. He plans to work during his spare time, mostly on 10m (SSB). QSL direct via [IK7WUL](#).

-[DXNL # 2460 May 28, 2025] (0530-0620)

9X, RWANDA. Antonio IK7WUL (ex 5VØDX, TY3AA, and 9G5IK) has now received the callsign **9XØDX** for Rwanda. He plans to work during his spare time, mostly on 10m (SSB). QSL direct via [IK7WUL](#).

-[DXNL # 2460 May 28, 2025] (0530-0620)

C6, BAHAMAS. Dick, N9EEE will be QRV as **N9EEE/C6A** on Eleuthera Island from **June 15th to 20th**. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using only QRP CW. This includes two POTA activations as well. QSL to [N9EEE](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0620)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Alex, DL2ALY is QRV as **DPØGVN** until December. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via [DL4BBH](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 23 June 5, 2025] (0606-0627)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DMØLIMES** will be active from **May 1st to July 1st** for this year's German World Heritage Day (June 1st). Also active will be **DM3LIMES** on **May 31st - June 1st**. The Limes was the border line of the Roman Empire at its greatest extent. In 2005, the remnants of the Upper German-Raetian Limes were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list as "Frontiers of the Roman Empire". QSL both via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1773 April 26, 2025] (0425-0627)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of June 12, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. KP5	Desecheo Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. VKØH	Heard Island
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. FT/T	Tromelin Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. EZ	Turkmenistan

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF June 13, 2025] (0613-0704)

EA, SPAIN. Members of Cartagena Team will be active as **AO5APA** on **June 1st-15th**. The special callsigns marks the 40th anniversary of the Patrulla Aguilas ("Eagle Patrol"), the aerobatic demonstration team of the Spanish Air and Space Force. QSL via [EA5GTU](#).

-[425DXN # 1778 May 31, 2025] (0530-0620)

EA8, CANARY IS. Mike, HB9MBS plans to be QRV as **EA8/HB9MBS** from Los Quemados from **June 1st to 29th**. QSL to [HB9MBS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 May 29, 2025] (0530-0704)

F, FRANCE. F2VX, F4WEO and F9IE will be active holiday style as TM5RE from Re Island (EU-032) on June 16th-22nd. They will operate SSB, CW, FT4 and FT8 ("normal, F/H, MSHV") on various

bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1780 June 14, 2025] (0613-0627)

F, FRANCE. Celebrating IARU's 100th anniversary, Dimitri, F4DSK and Lee, F5MUX will be active as **TMØIARU** on **June 7th-21st**. They will operate mainly SSB and CW. Paper QSLs are not needed; QSL via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0606-0620)

F, FRANCE. Once again the Association des Radioamateurs de la Sarthe (F6KFI) will operate a special event station for the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Look for **TM24H** on **June 1st-15th**, with activity on various bands and modes. QSL via [F6KFI](#).

-[425DXN # 1778 May 31, 2025] (0530-0620)

F, FRANCE. Special callsigns **TM1ØØI**, **TM1ØØA**, **TM1ØØR** and **TM1ØØU** by the Radio Club Pierre Coulon (F5KMB) celebrate the centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union from **April 12th to July 13th**. QSL via eQSL only; paper cards will not be provided.

-[425DXN # 1771 April 12, 2025] (0411-0711)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Nobby, GØVJG, will be operating as **FO/GØVJG** from Bora Bora Island (OC-067) from **June 11th to 27th**. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2457 May 7, 2025] (0606-0627)

FS, ST. MARTIN. John, K9EL will be active holiday style as **FS/K9EL** from St. Martin (NA-105) on **June 4th-18th**. He will focus on 6 meters when the band is open, with limited activity on 40-10 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or via [K9EL](#).

-[425DXN # 1778 May 31, 2025] (0530-0620)

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. The Radio Club Dominicano (HI8RCD) celebrates its 99th anniversary with the callsign **HI99RCD** from **May 31st until June 15th**. QSL via e-mail or qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2460 May 28, 2025] (0530-0620)

HS, THAILAND. Special callsign **HS3ØDXA** commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Thailand DX Association (E28AC and E2X). Look for activity from **May 23rd to June 21st**, on all HF bands and the 2m band, including the amateur radio satellites. QSL via [HS6MYW](#).

-[425DXN # 1777 May 24, 2025] (0523-0620)

I, ITALY. Domenico, IK1MNF will be active again as **IK1MNF/IA5** from Isola d' Elba (EU-028) from early June **until the end of September**. He will operate mainly SSB on 20-6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via [IK1MNF](#).

-[425DXN # 1778 May 31, 2025] (0606-0627)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active again as **JS6RRR** from Miyako Island (AS-079) from **April 23rd to June 18th**. Other callsigns to be used are **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** and **JA3YEC/6**, as well as **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p** and **JA3YEC/p** on FT8. QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW matching on the IOTA website. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0620)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as **JG8NQJ/JD1** **until June 20th**. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL via [JA8CJY](#) (direct), JG8NQJ (bureau) and LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 17, 2025] (0418-0620)

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Kou, JP1IHD will be active again as **JD1BQP** (<https://x.com/jd1bqp>) from Chichijima (AS-031), Ogasawara on **June 15th-21st**. Activity will be focused on 6 meters using SSB and FT8/FT4. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL direct via [JP1IHD](#) or via bureau to JD1BQP.

-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0613-0620)

K, UNITED STATES. This year's Youth on the Air summer camp for young radio amateurs aged 15-25 in the Americas will be held on **June 15th-20th** near Denver, Colorado

(<https://youthonthear.org/denver2025>). Campers will operate special event station **WØY** during breaks

between sessions. In addition, there will be dedicated operating times on the HF bands and satellites, as well as for a POTA/SOTA activation (see [qrz.com](#) for the details). QSL via LoTW or [KC3UII](#).
-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0613-0620)

KHØ, MARIANA ISLANDS. Tony, JA6CNL is QRV as **KHØN** from Saipan Island (OC-086) **until June 15th**. Activity is on various HF bands using mainly FT8 and FT4. QSL to [JA6CNL](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0620)

KL7, ALASKA. Neha, VU2HUM and Pineit, VU2TUM will be QRV as **KL7/VU2HUM** and **KL7/VU2TUM**, respectively, around Prudhoe Bay and parts of southeastern Alaska from **June 7th to 20th**. Activity will be on the HF and VHF/UHF bands. QSL via [VU2TUM](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 23 June 5, 2025] (0606-0620)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special callsign **OE7ØOE** celebrates the Austrian State Treaty of 70 years ago **until the end of June**.
-[DXNL # 2459 May 21, 2025] (0523-0627)

OX, GREENLAND. Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active as **OX3LX** from two locations on the main island of Greenland (NA-018): Kangerlussuaq (GP47pa) on **June 5th-9th**, and Nuuk (GP44de) on June **10th-22nd**. As always, this will be a working trip, and he will be QRV only in his spare time. QSL via [OZØJ](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1778 May 31, 2025] (0530-0627)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special event station **PA2Ø25NATO** will be QRV during the **month of June** to highlight the 2025 NATO Summit to be held in the Hague. QSL via bureau or direct to [PA2Ø25NATO](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 May 29, 2025] (0530-0704)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Peter, PD1RP is QRV with special event station **PD8ØFREE** **until June 30th** to celebrate the 80 years of liberation since World War II. Activity is on 40, 20, 10, and 2 meters using CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSLs sent to all contacts via the bureau. No QSL or request needed.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 10, 2025] (0411-0627)

T8, PALAU. Nobu, JAØJHQ will be active again as **T88PB** from Koror (OC-009), Palau on **June 19th-23rd**, with main activity during the All-Asian DX CW Contest (June 21st-22nd). QSL via LoTW (preferred) or direct to [JAØJHQ](#).
-[425DXN # 1780 June 14, 2025] (0613-0627)

TK, CORSICA. Pascal, F6UIG will be active as **TK2C** from Corsica (EU-014) on **June 9th-23rd**. He will operate CW and SSB on 40-10 meters. He could also be QRV as TK/F6UIG/p while doing some POTA activities. QSL via [F6UIG](#).
-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0606-0627)

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN, QRV as **TR8CR** is currently one of the few active stations in the country. He plans to celebrate his 97th birthday in Libreville and then in **mid-June** return to France permanently. QSL via [F6AJA](#).
-[DXNL # 2460 May 28, 2025] (0530-0620)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. John, W5JON will be QRV as **V47JA** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **June 15th to 24th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8, with a focus on 6 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct only to [W5JON](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0627)

V5, NAMIBIA. Remo, HB9SHD is QRV as **V51/HB9SHD** **until June 15th**. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0620)

VE, CANADA. To celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Dobson Trail, Canada's longest volunteer-maintained trail, special event station **VC9DT** will be active **throughout June**. It will be operated by VE9ACC and friends from various locations along the 60-kilometer trail, including several WWFF (World Wide Flora & Fauna) sites. Operators will be QRV on multiple bands on SSB and FT8/FT4. See

<https://www.qrz.com/db/VC9DT> for award information and further details. QSL via [VE9CF](#).
-[425DXN # 1777 May 24, 2025] (0530-0627)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS IS. Fabian, J69FL is QRV as **VP5FL** from Providenciales Island while working here. Activity may be in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to [J69FL](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 23 June 5, 2025] (0606-0627)

VP8, FALKLAND IS. Gerry, G3WIP, now that he is retired, has moved from Ascension Island (ZD8GB) to Port Stanley and plans to operate as **VP8DPD** from **May 10th until July 12th**, mostly on 20-10m. QSL via [EA5GL](#).
-[DXNL # 2458 May 14, 2025] (0516-0711)

VP9, BERMUDA. Chris, W6CPL is QRV as **W6CPL/VP9** until **June 22nd**. Weather permitting, he will operate on 40, 20, and 15 meters. QSL via LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0627)

VP9, BERMUDA. Kyle, WA4PGM, will be back on the air as **VP9/WA4PGM** until **June 17th** on HF (CW) and via satellite. QSL via [WA4PGM](#), LoTW; no bureau.
-[DXNL # 2462 June 11, 2025] (0613-0620)

YI, IRAQ. Members of the Iraqi Radio Camping Team and Iraqi Amateur Radio Society are QRV as **YIØCT** from Sulaymaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan until **June 16th**. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via [YI6AT](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0620)

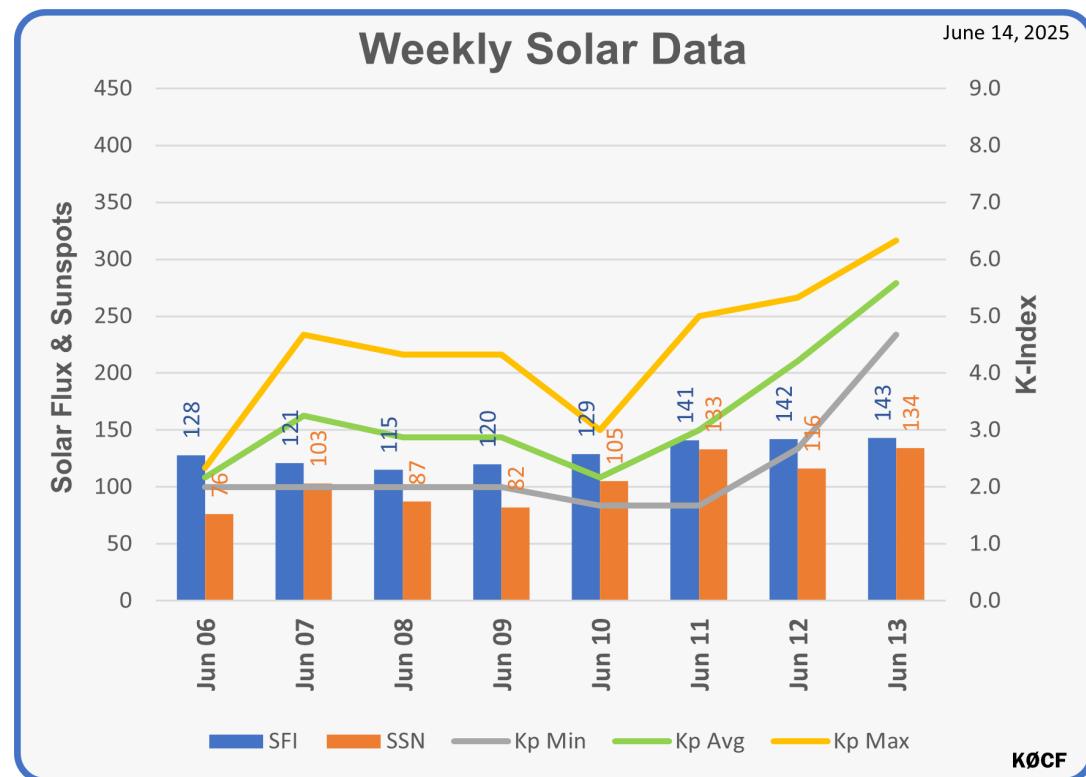
YJ, VANUATU. Bob, ZL1RS will be active as **YJØRS** from Efate (OC-035), Vanuatu on **June 11th-28th**. He will be QRV primarily on 6 meters FT8, with the main focus on ionospheric propagation and some activity on 10 meters if the Magic Band is closed. He will also be on 6m EME for about one hour at each moonrise and moonset. See https://www.qsl.net/zl1rs/yj0_eme.html for more information. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [ZL1RS](#).
-[425DXN # 1779 June 7, 2025] (0606-0627)

ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS. Dave, G4WXJ will be QRV as **ZC4RH** from Dhekelia from **June 14th to 20th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. QSL via [DK6SP](#), LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 24 June 13, 2025] (0613-0620)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special callsign **ZL1ØIARU** will be used by New Zealand's IARU member society, NZART, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union until **July 31st**. QSOs will be uploaded to QRZ Logbook and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0801)

ZL7, CHATHAM IS. Holger, DL3IO is QRV as **ZL7IO** from Waitangi (OC-038) until **June 26th** while working on equipment repairs. He may be active as a Single Op/Single Band/Low Power 40 meter entry in the CQ WPX CW contest (May 24th-25th). QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [DK7AO](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 21 May 22, 2025] (0523-0627)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

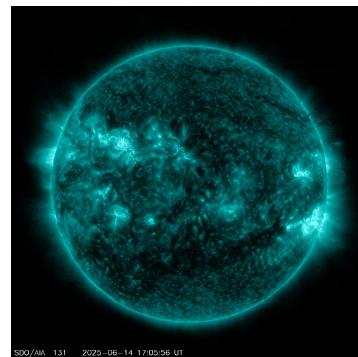
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wavelength of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, June 6th through yesterday, June 13th.

The average solar flux was 130, down 10 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 143 on Friday, June 13th, following a low of 115 on June 8th.

The average sunspot count was 109, up 16 from last week, peaking at 134 on Friday, June 13th after a weekly low of 76 on June 6th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.4 with a maximum of 6.3 on Friday, June 13th, indicating a moderate geomagnetic storm.

Solar flare activity since June 7th has been quiet with only 1 major flare, which was an M 1.3 event on Friday, June 13th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, June 7th through 1236 UTC, June 14th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Jun 13	2110	M 1.3

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Jun 14	40%	5%	140
Jun 15	40%	5%	135
Jun 16	40%	5%	130

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on June 9, 2025).

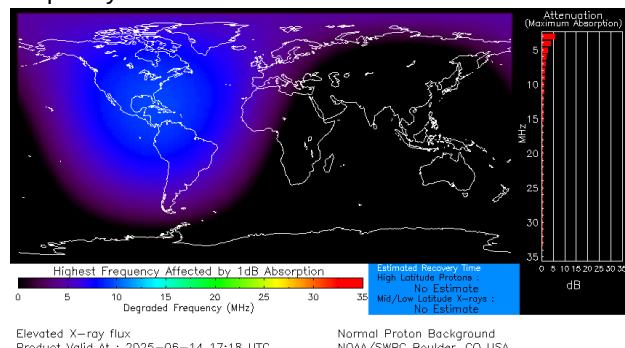
Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 14	120	6
Jun 15	118	5
Jun 16	120	4
Jun 17	120	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 18	125	3
Jun 19	130	3
Jun 20	130	3
Jun 21	130	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 22	125	3
Jun 23	125	4
Jun 24	125	4
Jun 25	130	6

Global D Region Absorption

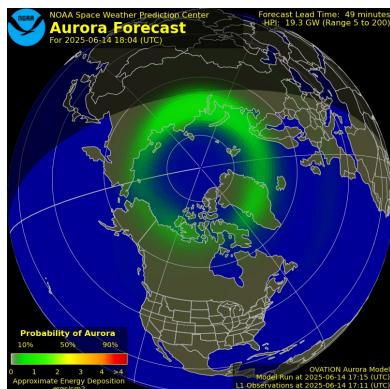
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and

should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

The Geomagnetic Storm Continues

Something hit Earth on June 13th. NOAA thinks it was a [CME](#). We lean toward a [CIR](#). Whatever it was, it sparked a long-lasting geomagnetic storm that is [still happening](#) 24 hours later. High-latitude sky watchers may be able to photograph auroras despite tonight's bright moon.

Taichi Nakamura watched the storm from New Zealand's Aoraki Mount Cook National Park:



"The moonlight reflecting from the snow was very bright, but the structure of the aurora was still quite visible to the naked eye," says Nakamura.

So far, storm levels have ranged between [G1](#) (Minor) and [G2](#) (Moderate) with a chance of intensifying to [G3](#) (Strong). NOAA forecasters say to expect more of the same on June 14th. (*Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](#) June 14, 2025. Republished by permission.*)

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.spaceweather.com/>
<https://www.solarham.com/>
<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or

Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 14	1800Z	Jun 16	0300Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 21	1500Z	Jun 22	1500Z	Rules
West Virginia QSO Party	Jun 21	1600Z	Jun 22	0400Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 21	1800Z	Jun 21	2359Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	Jun 28	1200Z	Jun 29	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 28	1800Z	Jun 29	2100Z	Rules
RAC Canada Day Contest	Jul 1	0000Z	Jul 1	2359Z	Rules
IARU HF World Championship	Jul 12	1200Z	Jul 13	1200Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Jul 19	1800Z	Jul 20	0600Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Jul 19	1800Z	Jul 20	2100Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 2	1800Z	Aug 3	0600Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, CW	Aug 9	0000Z	Aug 10	2359Z	Rules
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 9	1400Z	Aug 10	0400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Aug 16	1800Z	Aug 17	0600Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 17	1800Z	Aug 17	2359Z	Rules
Ohio QSO Party	Aug 23	1600Z	Aug 24	0400Z	Rules
YO DX HF Contest	Aug 30	1200Z	Aug 31	1200Z	Rules
World Wide Digi DX Contest	Aug 30	1200Z	Aug 31	1200Z	Rules
Kansas QSO Party	Aug 30	1400Z	Aug 31	2000Z	Rules
Tennessee QSO Party	Sep 7	1700Z	Sep 8	0300Z	Rules
ARRL September VHF Contest	Sep 13	1800Z	Sep 15	0300Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]